

# 2007 MICHIGAN SPRING TURKEY HUNTER SURVEY

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## **ABSTRACT**

A survey of turkey hunters was conducted following the 2007 spring hunting season to determine turkey harvest and hunter participation. In 2007, nearly 97,000 hunters harvested about 39,000 turkeys. Statewide, 40% of hunters harvested a turkey. The 2007 turkey harvest was 1% greater than the 2006 harvest and was the largest harvest in Michigan's history. Although harvest increased, the number of hunters decreased 5%, and their hunting effort decreased 15% between 2006 and 2007. Nearly 66% of the hunters rated their hunting experience as excellent, very good, or good in 2007. About 88% of the hunters reported they experienced no or only minor interference from other hunters.

### INTRODUCTION

Michigan's spring turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) hunting season was based originally on an area and quota system. This system was set up primarily to distribute hunters across geographic areas (management units) and time (hunt periods). As the turkey population has expanded statewide, license types were created that allowed hunters to hunt in multiple management units. The goal of the current system has been to provide hunting opportunities while maintaining acceptable levels of hunter satisfaction (Luukkonen 1998).

In 2007, 80% of the state (48,147 square miles) was open for wild turkey hunting from April 23 through May 31 (Figure 1). Compared to 2006, the area open for turkey hunting was increased by 4%. Hunting was expanded in seven counties (Alger, Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Marquette, Ontonagon, and Schoolcraft). The hunting area was divided into 14 management units (Figure 1). Hunting licenses were available on these management units for three types of hunts: (1) quota [limited licenses available] hunts on both public and private lands in a specific management unit, (2)



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quota hunt on private lands in southern Michigan [Hunt 301 in Unit ZZ], and (3) a guaranteed hunt (no quota) that included all units [Hunt 234].

People interested in obtaining a turkey hunting license could enter into a random drawing (lottery) conducted by the Department of Natural Resources or purchase a license for Hunt 234 between January 1 and February 1 without going through the lottery. Each applicant in the lottery could select up to two hunt choices (any combination of quota and unlimited quota hunts). The lottery consisted of two drawings. The first drawing was used to select applicants based on their preferred hunt choice. The second drawing was among applicants who were not successful in the first drawing, and was based on the hunter's second choice for a hunt. Any licenses available after the drawing was completed were made available on a first-come, first-served basis to applicants that were unsuccessful in the drawing. Unsuccessful applicants could purchase one leftover license or a license for Hunt 234. Beginning one week after licenses were available to unsuccessful applicants, all remaining licenses except licenses for Hunt 234 were made available to nonapplicants. Hunters were allowed to purchase one license and take one bearded turkey with the harvest tag issued with their license.

A limited number of licenses were available for quota hunts, and they were valid only in a certain management unit and only during a limited time period (7-25 days). Most quota hunts began before May 5 and lasted for seven days. A private land management unit (Unit ZZ) was created in 2002 that included all private lands in southern Michigan (Figure 1). Hunters who selected Hunt 301 could hunt the first two weeks of the season (April 23-May 6) anywhere on private lands in Unit ZZ. This unit and hunt period was created to provide additional hunting opportunity and increased flexibility for hunters who had difficulty finding time to hunt during shorter quota hunts.

Licenses for Hunt 234 could be used in any management unit. They were valid on public and private lands, except in Unit ZZ where they were only valid on private lands or on Fort Custer military lands. Hunt 234 started later than most quota hunts but lasted for 25 days (May 7-31). An unlimited number of licenses were available for Hunt 234.

The Wildlife Division has the authority and responsibility to protect and manage the wildlife resources of the state of Michigan. Harvest surveys are a management tool used by the Wildlife Division to accomplish its statutory responsibility. Estimating harvest, hunting effort, and hunter satisfaction are the primary objectives of this survey.

#### **METHODS**

The Wildlife Division provided all hunters the option to report voluntarily information about their turkey hunting activity via the Internet. This option was advertised in the hunting regulation booklet and through a statewide news release. Hunters could report information anytime during the hunting season. Hunters reported whether they hunted, the days spent afield, whether they harvested a turkey, and whether other hunters caused interference during their hunt (none, minor, some irritation, or major problem). Successful hunters were also asked to report where their turkeys were taken (public or private land), date of harvest, and beard length of the harvested bird. Birds with a beard

less than six inches were classified as juveniles (one year old), while birds with longer beards were adults (two years old or greater). Finally, hunters rated their overall hunting experience (excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor).

Following the 2007 spring turkey hunting season, a questionnaire was sent to 21,958 randomly selected people that had purchased a turkey hunting license (resident turkey, senior resident turkey, and nonresident turkey licenses) and had not already voluntarily reported harvest information via the Internet. Hunters receiving the questionnaire were asked to report the same information that was collected from hunters that reported voluntarily on the Internet.

Estimates were calculated using a stratified random sampling design that included 17 strata (Cochran 1977). Hunters were stratified based on the management unit where their license was valid (14 management units). Hunters who purchased a license that could be used in multiple management units (hunts 234 and 301) were treated as separate strata (strata 15 and 16). Moreover, people that had voluntarily reported information about their hunting activity via the Internet were treated as a separate stratum (seventeenth stratum).

A 95% confidence limit (CL) was calculated for each estimate. This CL could be added to and subtracted from the estimate to calculate the 95% confidence interval. The confidence interval was a measure of the precision associated with the estimate and implies the true value would be within this interval 95 times out of 100. Estimates were based on information collected from random samples of hunting license buyers. Thus, these estimates were subject to sampling errors (Cochran 1977). Estimates were not adjusted for possible response or nonresponse biases.

Statistical tests are used routinely to determine the likelihood that differences among estimates are larger than expected by chance alone. The overlap of 95% confidence intervals was used to determine whether estimates differed. Non-overlapping 95% confidence intervals was equivalent to stating the difference between the means was larger than would be expected 995 out of 1,000 times (P<0.005), if the study had been repeated (Payton et al. 2003).

Questionnaires were mailed initially during mid-June 2007, and nonrespondents were mailed up to two follow-up questionnaires. Although 21,958 people were sent the questionnaire, 240 surveys were undeliverable resulting in an adjusted sample size of 21,718. Questionnaires were returned by 15,145 people, yielding a 70% adjusted response rate. In addition, 4,744 people voluntarily reported information about their hunting activity via the Internet before the random sample was selected.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In 2007, licenses were purchased by 121,491 people, a decrease of 4% from 2006 (Table 1). Most of the people buying a license were men (93%), and the average age of the license buyers was 43 years (Figure 2). Nearly 10% (11,679) of the license buyers were younger than 17 years old.

About 80% ( $\pm 1\%$ ) of license buyers hunted turkeys (97,074 hunters). Most of these hunters were men (90,566  $\pm$  851), although nearly 7% ( $\pm 1\%$ ) of the hunters were women (6,508  $\pm$  447). Hunter numbers (Table 2) decreased 5% from 2006. Counties listed in descending order with more than 2,000 hunters afield included Allegan, Kent, Barry, Newaygo, Montcalm, Lapeer, Tuscola, Jackson, Saginaw, Sanilac, and Calhoun (Table 3).

Hunters spent an estimated 417,639 days afield pursuing turkeys (4.3 ± 0.1 days/hunter), a decrease of 15% from 2006, and harvested approximately 39,168 birds (Figure 3). Counties listed in descending order with hunters taking more than 1,000 turkeys included Newaygo, Montcalm, Allegan, Kent, Jackson, Barry, Tuscola, Lapeer, Saginaw, and Calhoun (Table 3). Hunter success was 40% in 2007, compared to 38% hunter success in 2006. The number of turkeys harvested in 2007 was the largest harvest in Michigan's history. Although the 2007 harvest was 1% higher than the previous record harvest of 38,942 turkeys taken in 2006, the increase was not statistically significant.

About 31% ( $\pm$ 1%) of the harvested birds were juvenile males (12,165  $\pm$  624); 67% ( $\pm$ 1%) were adult males (26,398  $\pm$  793), and about 1% were bearded females (451  $\pm$  106). Additionally, the age of a small number of harvested birds (<1%) was unknown (154  $\pm$  71) because hunters failed to report a beard length.

Hunting effort and the number of turkeys harvested were generally highest during the earliest hunting periods (Figures 4-7). For turkeys that the harvest date was known, 42% of these birds were taken during the first seven days (April 23-29). Daily hunter success generally was more than 8% during April 23 through May 7. Daily hunter success was about 5-7% for the remainder of May. Hunting effort and harvest generally was greater on the weekends than weekdays, especially on Saturdays.

About 80% of turkey hunters hunted solely on private land; 14% hunted on public land only; and 5% hunted on both private and public lands (Table 4). Of the 39,168 turkeys harvested in 2007, 89  $\pm$  1% were taken on private land (34,723  $\pm$  866 birds). About 11  $\pm$  1% of the harvest (4,421  $\pm$  443 birds) was taken on public land.

Hunter satisfaction is one measure used to assess the turkey management program in Michigan. Of the estimated 97,074 people hunting turkeys in 2007,  $66 \pm 1\%$  of the hunters rated their hunting experience as either excellent (17,691  $\pm$  675 hunters), very good (19,866  $\pm$  733), or good (26,419  $\pm$  833) (Table 5). Nearly 19  $\pm$  1% of the hunters rated their experience as fair (18,664  $\pm$  739 hunters). Only 13  $\pm$  1% of the hunters rated their experience as poor (12,189  $\pm$  613 hunters). About 2% of the hunters (2,245  $\pm$  287 hunters) failed to rate their hunting experience.

Hunter satisfaction is affected by many factors such as hunting success and whether hunting activities were completed without interference (Luukkonen 1998). In 2007,  $66 \pm 1\%$  of the hunters reported no hunter interference;  $22 \pm 1\%$  reported minor interference;  $8 \pm 1\%$  reported some irritation caused by hunter interference; and  $2 \pm 1\%$  reported hunter interference was a major problem (Table 6).

Although interference can affect hunter satisfaction, hunter satisfaction was more closely associated with hunter success (Figures 8 and 9). Hunter success was greater than 30% in all hunt periods, and hunter success and satisfaction varied little among the hunt periods (Table 7).

Compared to 2006, the number of hunters and hunter effort increased significantly in the Upper Peninsula but declined significantly in the Lower Peninsula (LP) (Table 8). Hunter success and hunter satisfaction was unchanged in all regions except the southern LP which experienced improved hunting success and improved hunter satisfaction between 2006 and 2007 (Table 9).

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Table 1. Number of hunting licenses available and people applying for licenses during the 2007 Michigan spring turkey hunting season.

00000111					Number of	Number of		
				Number of	licenses	leftover	Number of	
			Number of	licenses	purchased	licenses	licenses	
Manage-	Licenses	Number of	applicants	remaining	by	purchased by	purchased by	
ment unit or	available	eligible	successful in	after	successful		people not in	Number of
hunt period	(quota)	applicants <sup>a</sup>	drawing <sup>b</sup>	drawing	applicants <sup>c</sup>	applicants <sup>c</sup>	the drawing <sup>c</sup>	licensees <sup>c</sup>
Α	2,500	2,019	2,067	433	1,540	12	353	1,905
AA	1,400	963	950	450	710	18	196	924
В	2,200	1,826	1,885	315	1,397	47	239	1,683
E	1,700	3,049	1,699	1	1,285	0	0	1,285
F	5,000	6,818	5,002	0	3,674	0	0	3,674
J	4,000	3,265	3,133	867	2,315	56	706	3,077
K	8,500	14,934	8,497	3	6,626	0	0	6,626
M	12,000	4,485	4,503	7,497	3,481	26	2,083	5,590
ZA	4,800	4,488	3,387	1,413	2,451	181	1,071	3,703
ZB	1,750	1,987	1,281	469	942	111	296	1,349
ZC	1,950	2,463	1,457	493	1,029	161	257	1,447
ZD	40	101	40	0	23	0	0	23
ZE	2,000	3,458	1,819	181	1,266	150	8	1,424
ZF	5,600	4,332	3,990	1,610	3,079	52	1,396	4,527
Hunt 301	65,000	24,348	25,168	39,832	20,456	1,097	14,082	35,635
Hunt 234	NA	1,385	2,744	NA	2,089	3,636	42,894 <sup>d</sup>	48,619
Statewide	118,440	79,921	67,622	53,564	52,363	5,547	63,581	121,491

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Number of eligible applicants selecting the management unit as their first choice to hunt.

<sup>b</sup>Number of successful applicants was sometimes larger than quota because of system processing errors.

<sup>c</sup>If a licensee purchased more than one license, only the latest purchase is included in the summary of licenses purchased.

<sup>d</sup>Licenses sold between January 1 and February 1.

Table 2. Number of hunters, hunting efforts, harvest, hunter success, hunter satisfaction, and hunter interference during the spring 2007 Michigan turkey hunting season.

			Hun	<u> </u>			Hur	nter		nter		terfered
	Hunte	rs <sup>a</sup>	efforts (	(days) <sup>a</sup>	Harve	est <sup>a</sup>	SUC	cess	satisfa	action <sup>b</sup>	hur	nters <sup>c</sup>
Management		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%
unit	Total	CL	Total	CL	Total	CL	%	CL	%	CL	%	CL
Hunt periods w	ith quotas (	(General	limited qu	lota hunt	periods)							
Α	1,535	95	5,718	645	653	111	43	7	70	6	87	5
AA	761	45	2,949	283	138	41	18	5	42	7	86	5
В	1,450	73	5,240	496	427	90	29	6	60	7	90	4
E	1,161	44	3,652	270	382	67	33	6	61	6	89	4
F	3,208	148	11,501	880	771	174	24	5	57	6	88	4
J	2,685	128	8,784	728	915	171	34	6	61	6	88	4
K	6,140	201	19,575	1,528	2,694	370	44	6	63	6	87	4
M	4,426	301	22,333	3,160	1,771	339	40	7	62	7	89	5
ZA	2,701	208	9,976	1,220	965	201	36	7	70	7	86	5
ZB	1,178	58	3,794	436	390	78	33	6	60	7	89	4
ZC	1,243	70	4,584	526	375	87	30	7	60	7	81	6
ZD	16	2	52	11	5	1	29	9	53	12	61	11
ZE	1,184	69	4,572	531	449	84	38	7	67	7	83	5
ZF	3,710	239	16,703	2,074	1,371	281	37	7	63	7	77	6
Subtotal	31,397	548	119,431	4,580	11,304	692	36	2	62	2	86	2
Hunt period 30	1 with quot	a (Privat	e lands in	Managen	nent Unit 2	ZZ; April 2	23-May 6	5, 2007)				
ZA	8,644	340	33,180	1,720	4,101	251	47	2	75	2	90	1
ZB	3,269	229	12,456	1,111	1,516	159	46	4	69	3	87	2
ZC	3,695	240	14,544	1,212	1,681	166	46	3	76	3	88	2
ZD	149	51	522	202	19	18	13	11	61	17	88	11
ZE	7,709	326	29,957	1,675	3,601	237	47	2	75	2	87	2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Number of hunters does not add up to statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one unit for hunts 234 and 301. Column totals for hunting effort and harvest may not equal statewide totals because of rounding errors.

<sup>b</sup>Proportion of hunters that rated their hunting experience as excellent, very good, or good.

<sup>c</sup>Proportion of hunters that indicated they experienced no or only minor interference from other hunters.

Table 2 (continued). Number of hunters, hunting efforts, harvest, hunter success, hunter satisfaction, and hunter interference

during the spring 2007 Michigan turkey hunting season.

		Hunting Hunters <sup>a</sup> efforts (days) <sup>a</sup> Harves						nter		nter	Nonin	terfered
	Hunte	rs <sup>a</sup>	efforts (	(days) <sup>a</sup>	Harve	est <sup>a</sup>	succ	cess	satisfa	action <sup>b</sup>	hur	nters <sup>c</sup>
Management		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%
unit	Total	CL	Total	CL	Total	CL	%	CL	%	CL	%	CL
Hunt period 30	1 with quot	a (Priva	te lands in	Manager	ment Unit 2	ZZ; April 2	23-May 6	, 2007)				
ZF	7,193	319	28,674	1,656	3,402	232	47	2	73	2	87	2
Unknown	400	84	1,227	325	77	37	19	8	63	10	87	7
Subtotal	30,507	281	120,559	2,431	14,397	388	47	1	74	1	88	1
Unlimited quot	a hunt perio	od (Guai	anteed Hu	ınt 234; N	1ay 7-31, 2	2007)						
Α	389	93	1,872	563	81	41	21	9	49	12	94	6
AA	284	80	1,234	454	48	32	17	10	50	14	99	0
В	358	89	1,477	421	92	45	26	11	41	12	90	8
Е	2,043	210	9,099	1,291	697	125	34	5	56	5	90	3
F	2,324	222	11,102	1,421	464	99	20	4	43	5	88	3
J	1,400	174	6,404	1,067	411	95	29	6	51	6	94	3
K	8,450	397	39,456	2,585	3,138	256	37	2	60	3	88	2
M	666	121	2,990	700	242	72	36	9	63	9	96	4
ZA	6,849	367	35,074	2,656	2,744	242	40	3	66	3	90	2
ZB	1,896	205	8,467	1,264	771	132	41	5	67	5	89	3
ZC	2,594	236	12,601	1,541	890	140	34	4	66	4	88	3
ZD	106	49	634	375	41	29	38	22	65	22	93	12
ZE	4,723	312	20,973	1,922	1,934	204	41	3	71	3	92	2
ZF	4,822	315	23,980	2,171	1,882	202	39	3	68	3	87	2
Unknown	477	101	2,285	702	33	26	7	5	31	10	89	7
Subtotal	35,170	474	177,648	4,659	13,467	469	38	1	62	1	89	1
Statewide	97,074	778	417,639	6,971	39,168	921	40	1	66	1	88	1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Number of hunters does not add up to statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one unit for hunts 234 and 301. Column totals for hunting effort and harvest may not equal statewide total because of rounding errors.

bProportion of hunters that rated their hunting experience as excellent, very good, or good.

cProportion of hunters that indicated they experienced no or only minor interference from other hunters.

Table 3. Estimated number of hunters, hunting effort, harvest, hunter success, hunter satisfaction, and hunter interference during the 2007 Michigan spring turkey hunting season. Estimates combined quota and unlimited quota hunts in each county.

			Hunt	ting			Hur	nter		nter	Noninterfered	
	Hunte	ers <sup>a</sup>	efforts (	days) <sup>a</sup>	Harve	est <sup>a</sup>	succ	ess	satisfa	action <sup>b</sup>	hur	nters <sup>c</sup>
		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%	'	95%
County	Total	CL	Total	CL	Total	CL	%	CL	%	CL	%	CL
Alcona	1,982	199	7,560	958	471	111	24	5	58	6	90	4
Alger	346	170	1,707	1,259	98	91	28	23	74	22	100	0
Allegan	3,247	330	13,290	1,782	1,225	201	38	5	68	5	80	5
Alpena	1,064	148	4,252	797	466	105	44	8	66	7	92	5
Antrim	1,112	185	3,849	746	333	108	30	8	63	9	86	7
Arenac	743	121	2,714	578	266	72	36	8	53	8	85	6
Baraga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barry	3,004	323	12,495	1,771	1,176	192	39	5	67	6	85	5
Bay	446	102	1,812	609	193	67	43	11	72	10	92	6
Benzie	580	175	2,050	654	108	62	19	10	59	15	90	9
Berrien	944	173	3,930	894	347	98	37	9	61	9	83	7
Branch	1,253	155	4,941	767	536	101	43	6	70	6	87	4
Calhoun	2,207	207	8,251	1,034	1,019	141	46	5	73	4	88	3
Cass	1,281	208	6,529	1,614	475	138	37	8	69	7	88	5
Charlevoix	660	149	2,095	579	281	101	43	12	61	12	87	9
Cheboygan	897	171	3,313	699	263	100	29	10	51	10	89	6
Chippewa <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clare	1,333	159	5,205	863	440	94	33	6	63	6	93	3
Clinton	1,526	188	6,481	992	597	113	39	6	70	6	84	4
Crawford	676	147	2,843	743	137	63	20	9	45	11	88	7
Delta	1,671	331	7,092	1,941	600	218	36	11	59	11	96	4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Number of hunters does not add up to statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one county. Column totals for hunting effort and harvest may not equal statewide totals because of rounding errors.

Proportion of hunters that rated their hunting experience as excellent, very good, or good.

Proportion of hunters that indicated they experienced no or only minor interference from other hunters.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup>Not open for turkey hunting.

Table 3 (continued). Estimated number of hunters, hunting effort, harvest, hunter success, hunter satisfaction, and hunter interference during the 2007 Michigan spring turkey hunting season. Estimates combined quota and unlimited quota hunts in each county.

	Hunting						Hunter Hunte					
	Hunte	rs <sup>a</sup>	efforts (	days) <sup>a</sup>	Harve	est <sup>a</sup>	succ	ess	satisfa	action <sup>b</sup>	hur	nters <sup>c</sup>
		95%	'	95%		95%		95%		95%		95%
County	Total	CL	Total	CL	Total	CL	%	CL	%	CL	%	CL
Dickinson	813	245	3,866	1,686	323	162	40	16	67	15	88	11
Eaton	1,625	178	6,607	960	722	117	44	5	75	5	94	3
Emmet	590	140	1,810	497	239	94	40	12	61	12	94	6
Genesee	1,587	178	6,306	911	592	107	37	5	74	5	83	4
Gladwin	1,070	139	4,447	824	357	84	33	7	57	7	89	4
Gogebic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gd. Traverse	923	215	3,809	951	280	119	30	11	59	12	82	8
Gratiot	1,610	212	6,626	1,155	719	143	45	7	72	6	86	6
Hillsdale	1,472	166	5,470	802	593	105	40	6	71	5	86	4
Houghton	7	13	36	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0
Huron	1,359	162	5,992	968	528	101	39	6	63	6	89	4
Ingham	1,509	171	5,772	877	606	108	40	6	76	5	85	4
Ionia	1,815	212	7,406	1,167	821	139	45	6	76	5	95	3
losco	1,327	209	5,823	1,071	318	112	24	7	51	9	86	6
Iron	683	233	3,070	1,283	271	154	40	18	60	18	83	14
Isabella	1,747	196	6,972	979	709	118	41	5	68	5	92	4
Jackson	2,767	227	10,711	1,210	1,189	150	43	4	73	4	89	3
Kalamazoo	1,613	233	6,299	1,094	603	138	37	7	69	7	83	6
Kalkaska	778	198	2,942	799	286	127	37	13	51	13	87	9
Kent	3,080	268	12,578	1,478	1,212	165	39	4	73	4	89	3
Keweenaw <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Number of hunters does not add up to statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one county. Column totals for hunting effort and harvest may not equal statewide totals because of rounding errors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Proportion of hunters that rated their hunting experience as excellent, very good, or good.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup>Proportion of hunters that indicated they experienced no or only minor interference from other hunters.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup>Not open for turkey hunting.

Table 3 (continued). Estimated number of hunters, hunting effort, harvest, hunter success, hunter satisfaction, and hunter interference during the 2007 Michigan spring turkey hunting season. Estimates combined quota and unlimited quota hunts in each county.

	Hunting						Hu	nter		nter		Noninterfered	
_	Hunte	rs <sup>a</sup>	efforts (	days) <sup>a</sup>	Harve	est <sup>a</sup>	SUC	cess	satisfa	action <sup>b</sup>	hui	nters <sup>c</sup>	
•		95%	'	95%	'	95%		95%		95%		95%	
County	Total	CL	Total	CL	Total	CL	%	CL	%	CL	%	CL	
Lake	1,560	272	5,398	1,039	328	110	21	7	52	9	86	6	
Lapeer	2,843	232	11,164	1,248	1,162	151	41	4	70	4	88	3	
Leelanau	391	147	1,158	517	173	102	44	19	71	15	89	12	
Lenawee	984	138	4,484	781	322	79	33	7	62	7	81	6	
Livingston	1,430	167	5,318	836	578	105	40	6	78	5	89	4	
Luce <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Mackinac <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Macomb	423	92	1,749	465	132	50	31	10	72	10	89	7	
Manistee	1,058	216	3,490	759	420	149	40	11	62	10	85	8	
Marquette	365	171	1,530	979	43	53	12	14	25	19	85	18	
Mason	1,046	212	4,322	948	399	137	38	10	61	10	90	7	
Mecosta	1,509	245	6,676	1,271	682	177	45	8	69	7	90	5	
Menominee	1,331	302	6,323	1,891	640	220	48	13	65	12	87	9	
Midland	1,529	201	6,139	990	559	115	37	6	64	7	92	3	
Missaukee	808	192	3,085	813	259	117	32	12	49	12	90	5	
Monroe	239	67	1,133	423	63	34	26	12	65	13	87	9	
Montcalm	2,871	258	12,283	1,458	1,230	176	43	5	71	4	91	3	
Montmorency	1,228	113	4,768	582	232	62	19	5	48	6	89	4	
Muskegon	1,654	221	7,330	1,314	674	137	41	7	72	6	83	5	
Newaygo	2,925	340	11,084	1,552	1,235	235	42	6	67	6	90	4	
Oakland	991	139	3,439	600	374	87	38	7	65	7	88	5	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Number of hunters does not add up to statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one county. Column totals for hunting effort and harvest may not equal statewide totals because of rounding errors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Proportion of hunters that rated their hunting experience as excellent, very good, or good.

<sup>°</sup>Proportion of hunters that indicated they experienced no or only minor interference from other hunters.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup>Not open for turkey hunting.

Table 3 (continued). Estimated number of hunters, hunting effort, harvest, hunter success, hunter satisfaction, and hunter interference during the 2007 Michigan spring turkey hunting season. Estimates combined quota and unlimited quota hunts in each county.

			Hunt	_			Hu	nter		nter		terfered
	Hunte	rs <sup>a</sup>	efforts (	days) <sup>a</sup>	Harve	est <sup>a</sup>	suc	cess	satisfa	action <sup>b</sup>	hur	nters <sup>c</sup>
		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%
County	Total	CL	Total	CL	Total	CL	%	CL	%	CL	%	CL
Oceana	1,632	278	6,175	1,203	688	186	42	9	65	9	81	7
Ogemaw	1,020	185	3,750	779	294	105	29	9	48	10	86	7
Ontonagon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Osceola	992	218	3,351	868	500	173	50	11	67	10	95	3
Oscoda	1,156	194	4,217	849	196	82	17	7	45	9	89	5
Otsego	916	170	3,631	816	208	86	23	8	54	10	94	5
Ottawa	1,876	216	7,174	1,043	759	132	40	6	68	6	86	4
Presque Isle	939	129	3,699	660	353	91	38	8	67	8	86	6
Roscommon	1,034	181	3,669	762	179	80	17	7	55	9	85	7
Saginaw	2,600	254	10,150	1,269	1,085	159	42	5	69	5	89	3
St. Clair	1,842	191	8,522	1,157	678	115	37	5	68	5	88	3
St. Joseph	989	172	4,120	891	449	121	45	9	64	9	89	6
Sanilac	2,225	202	8,291	977	942	133	42	5	69	4	86	3
Schoolcraft	104	81	505	545	34	53	33	40	72	27	100	0
Shiawassee	1,548	193	6,327	1,015	606	118	39	6	70	6	85	5
Tuscola	2,780	222	9,964	1,111	1,171	150	42	4	69	4	88	3
Van Buren	1,699	221	6,661	1,048	892	174	52	7	80	5	89	5
Washtenaw	901	130	3,488	723	377	85	42	7	76	6	85	6
Wayne	30	23	71	56	0	0	0	0	42	38	96	5
Wexford	1,385	262	4,835	1,220	463	162	33	10	53	10	85	8
Unknown	2,637	305	11,218	2,001	387	105	14	4	52	6	89	3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Number of hunters does not add up to statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one county. Column totals for hunting effort and harvest may not equal statewide totals because of rounding errors.

Proportion of hunters that rated their hunting experience as excellent, very good, or good.

Proportion of hunters that indicated they experienced no or only minor interference from other hunters.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup>Not open for turkey hunting.

Table 4. Estimated number and proportion of hunters hunting on private and public lands during the spring 2007 Michigan turkey hunting season.<sup>a</sup>

	Both private and public							ublic								
_	Pri	vate lan	d only			Public I	and only	<u>/                                      </u>		land	ls			Unknov	wn land	k
Manage-		95%		95%	•	95%		95%		95%		95%	·	95%		95%
ment unit	Total	CL	%	CL	Total	CL	%	CL	Total	CL	%	CL	Total	CL	%	CL
Hunt perio	ds with	quotas (	Gener	al lim	ited quot	a hunt	periods)									
Α	1,192	114	78	6	195	69	13	4	140	62	9	4	9	17	1	1
AA	344	56	45	7	355	56	47	7	52	27	7	4	10	12	1	2
В	1,196	96	82	5	194	67	13	5	60	39	4	3	0	0	0	0
E	827	71	71	5	238	57	21	5	90	38	8	3	6	10	0	1
F	1,034	194	32	6	1,851	217	58	6	277	115	9	4	46	50	1	2
J	1,485	189	55	7	822	166	31	6	336	118	13	4	41	45	2	2
K	3,733	375	61	6	1,765	332	29	5	642	223	10	4	0	0	0	0
M	3,069	366	69	7	801	254	18	6	502	210	11	5	54	73	1	2
ZA	1,503	227	56	7	974	201	36	7	225	110	8	4	0	0	0	0
ZB	617	87	52	7	515	84	44	7	46	31	4	3	0	0	0	0
ZC	664	99	53	7	500	94	40	7	80	45	6	4	0	0	0	0
ZD	5	2	31	11	11	2	69	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ZE	513	88	43	7	613	90	52	7	50	33	4	3	7	14	1	1
ZF	1,844	302	50	7	1,410	284	38	7	455	185	12	5	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	•	738	57		10,243	640	33	2	2,954	423	9	1	173	103	1	0
Hunt 301	•	ta (Priva		ds in I	Manager	nent Ur	nit ZZ; A	pril 23-l	May 6, 20	007)						
ZA	8,644	340	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ZB	3,269	229	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ZC	3,695	240	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ZD	149	51	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ZE	7,709	326	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Row totals may not equal 100% because of rounding errors.

Table 4 (continued). Estimated number and proportion of hunters hunting on private and public lands during the spring 2007 Michigan turkey hunting season.<sup>a</sup>

wiioriigari t	<u> </u>	······ <b>3</b>							Both	private	and po	ublic				
_	Priv	vate lar	nd only		F	ublic la	nd on	ly		land	ls ·			Unknov	wn land	<u> </u>
Manage-		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%
ment unit	Total	CL	%	CL	Total	CL	%	CL	Total	CL	%	CL	Total	CL	%	CL
Hunt 301 v	vith quot	a (Priva	ate land	ds in N	Managem	ent Uni	t ZZ; A	April 23-l	May 6, 20	007)						
ZF	7,193	319	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	1 400	84	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	,	281	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlimited of			,	rante		234; Ma	ıy 7-3′	1, 2007)								
Α	313	83	81	9	68	39	18	9	7	13	2	3	0	0	0	0
AA	139	57	49	14	121	52	43	14	23	23	8	8	0	0	0	0
В	305	82	85	9	44	32	12	8	9	13	3	4	0	0	0	0
E	1,470	180	72	5	421	97	21	4	145	57	7	3	7	13	0	1
F	975	146	42	5	1,034	150	44	5	294	81	13	3	21	23	1	1
J	839	136	60	6	400	93	29	6	153	58	11	4	0	0	0	0
K	5,623	335	67	2	2,039	210	24	2	760	130	9	1	29	26	0	0
M	445	99	67	9	131	54	20	7	83	43	12	6	7	13	1	2
ZAb	6,849	367	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ZBb	1,896	205	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ZCb	2,594	236	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$ZD_{b}^{b}$	106	49	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ZEb	4,723	312	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$ZF^b$	4,822	315	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknowr		86	70	10	76	37	16	7	17	18	4	4	50	34	10	7
Subtotal		516	84	1	3,603	273	10	1	2,032	208	6	1	114	52	0	0
Statewide <sup>c</sup>		944	80	1	13,846	696	14	1	4,987	471	5	0	287	115	0	0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Row totals may not equal 100% because of rounding errors.

<sup>b</sup>Licenses for the unlimited quota hunt were valid only on private lands in Management Unit ZZ in southern Michigan (Figure 1).

<sup>c</sup>Number of hunters does not add up to statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one unit for the unlimited quota hunts.

Table 5. How hunters rated their hunting experience during the spring 2007 Michigan

turkey hunting season.

	ng season.	Sa	atisfaction leve	el (% of hunt	ers) <sup>a</sup>	
Manage-		Very				No
ment unit	Excellent	good	Good	Fair	Poor	answer
Hunt period	s with quotas	(General li	imited quota h	unt periods)		
Α	22	18	30	18	11	1
AA	11	7	24	26	29	3
В	13	18	29	18	20	2
Е	16	18	27	18	16	5
F	12	16	29	20	21	2
J	13	20	28	19	18	3
K	20	18	25	21	12	4
M	13	20	30	22	15	0
ZA	14	21	35	15	13	2
ZB	18	18	24	24	15	1
ZC	17	17	26	26	12	2
ZD	13	8	32	39	8	0
ZE	16	19	32	22	8	3
ZF	15	22	27	24	9	4
Mean	15	19	28	21	14	3
Hunt 301 w	ith quota (Pri	vate lands i	n Managemei	nt Unit ZZ; A	oril 23-May 6,	2007)
ZA	22	25	28	15	7	2
ZB	22	23	24	20	9	2
ZC	26	23	27	16	5	3
ZD	8	25	29	12	27	0
ZE	24	24	26	16	8	2
ZF	22	24	26	17	8	2
Unknown	15	19	29	15	16	6
Mean	23	24	27	16	8	2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Row totals may not equal 100% because of rounding errors.

Table 5 (continued). How hunters rated their hunting experience during the spring 2007 Michigan turkey hunting season.

		S	atisfaction leve	el (% of hunte	ers) <sup>a</sup>	
Manage-		Very				No
ment unit	Excellent	good	Good	Fair	Poor	answer
Unlimited qu	uota hunt per	iod (Guara	nteed Hunt 23	34; May 7-31,	2007)	
Α	9	11	29	34	13	4
AA	14	13	23	16	34	0
В	6	18	17	27	31	0
E	14	17	25	24	17	2
F	8	13	23	22	31	3
J	13	15	23	27	21	1
K	14	19	27	22	15	2
M	17	17	29	25	11	1
ZA	16	20	29	20	12	2
ZB	17	21	29	18	12	3
ZC	21	22	23	22	10	3
ZD	43	15	7	14	13	7
ZE	20	23	28	17	10	2
ZF	19	20	29	18	12	2
Unknown	8	4	18	23	44	3
Mean	16	19	27	20	15	2
Statewide <sup>b</sup>	18	20	27	19	13	2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Row totals may not equal 100% because of rounding errors. <sup>b</sup>Statewide mean satisfaction levels (all hunts and periods).

Table 6. Estimated amount of hunter interference experienced by turkey hunters during the spring 2007 Michigan turkey hunting season.

	<u> </u>	Interfere	nce level (% of I	nunters) <sup>a</sup>	
Manage-			Some	Major	
ment unit	None	Minor	irritation	problem	No answer
Hunt periods	with quotas (C	eneral limited	quota hunt perio	ods)	
Α	62	25	7	2	3
AA	66	20	9	3	2
В	72	17	8	1	2
Е	72	18	6	2	3
F	68	21	8	2	2
J	73	15	8	3	2
K	58	29	8	1	4
M	62	28	8	2	1
ZA	64	23	6	5	2
ZB	68	21	10	1	1
ZC	62	20	14	3	2
ZD	16	45	16	23	0
ZE	53	30	13	3	1
ZF	51	26	15	4	4
Mean	62	24	9	2	2
Hunt 301 wit	h quota (Privat	e lands in Man	agement Unit Z	Z; April 23-May	(6, 2007)
ZA	68	22	7	2	2
ZB	67	20	9	2	2
ZC	69	20	8	2	2
ZD	68	20	8	4	0
ZE	67	20	10	2	1
ZF	64	24	9	2	1
Unknown	68	19	5	3	6
Mean	67	21	8	2	2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Row totals may not equal 100% because of rounding errors.

Table 6 (continued). Estimated amount of hunter interference experienced by turkey

hunters during the spring 2007 Michigan turkey hunting season.

	Interference level (% of hunters) <sup>a</sup>											
Manage-			Some	Major								
ment unit	None	Minor	irritation	problem	No answer							
Unlimited quo	ta hunt period	d (Guaranteed F	lunt 234; May 7	7-31, 2007)								
Α	75	19	4	0	2							
AA	81	18	1	0	0							
В	75	15	6	4	0							
Е	73	16	6	1	3							
F	70	18	6	3	3							
J	73	21	4	1	1							
K	63	25	8	3	2							
M	78	18	3	0	1							
ZA	70	20	7	1	2							
ZB	69	21	5	3	3							
ZC	67	22	9	1	1							
ZD	73	20	0	0	7							
ZE	75	16	6	1	1							
ZF	66	21	9	2	3							
Unknown	64	25	5	2	4							
Mean	69	20	7	2	2							
Statewide <sup>b</sup>	66	22	8	2	2							

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Row totals may not equal 100% because of rounding errors. <sup>b</sup>Statewide mean interference levels (all hunts and periods).

Table 7. Estimated number of hunting efforts, hunters, hunting success, noninterfered hunters, and hunter rating of the 2007 spring turkey hunting season, by hunt periods.

	April	23	April	30	May	<i>i</i> 7	May	<sup>,</sup> 14	All periods <sup>a</sup>	
		95%		95%	•	95%		95%		95%
Variable	Estimate	CL	Estimate	CL	Estimate	CL	Estimate	CL	Estimate	CL
Hunting efforts (days)	187,929	4,794	31,800	2,405	191,428	5,212	6,482	1,269	417,639	6,971
Number of hunters	48,025	731	9,318	587	38,309	598	1,421	211	97,074	778
Successful hunters (n)	20,893	686	3,050	401	14,623	535	602	151	39,168	921
Successful hunters (%)	44	1	33	4	38	1	42	8	40	1
Noninterfered hunters (n) <sup>b</sup>	41,974	759	8,037	559	34,109	614	1,208	196	85,329	908
Noninterfered hunters (%) <sup>b</sup>	87	1	86	3	89	1	85	6	88	1
Favorable rating (n) <sup>c</sup>	33,668	764	5,393	502	23,940	613	974	182	63,976	993
Favorable rating (%) <sup>c</sup>	70	1	58	4	62	1	69	7	66	1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Row totals may not equal totals for all periods because of rounding errors.

<sup>b</sup>Proportion of hunters that indicated they experienced no or only minor interference from other hunters.

<sup>c</sup>Hunters rating their hunting experience as excellent, very good, or good.

Table 8. Comparison of the estimated number of hunters, hunting effort, and harvest between 2006 and 2007 Michigan spring turkey hunting seasons, summarized by regions.

		Hu	nters (No	o.) <sup>b</sup>			Hunting efforts (days)						Harvest (No.)				
	2006 2007			2006		20	2007		2006		2007						
		95%		95%	Change	e	95%		95%	Change		95%		95%	Change		
Region <sup>a</sup>	Total	CL	Total	CL	(%)	Total	CL	Total	CL	(%)	Total	CL	Total	CL	(%)		
UP	4,074	192	4,953	336	22 <sup>*</sup>	17,858	1,673	24,128	3,066	35 <sup>*</sup>	1,660	152	2,009	347	21		
NLP	35,457	699	31,192	591	-12 <sup>*</sup>	162,031	5,604	126,018	3,969	-22 <sup>*</sup>	11,681	611	10,857	566	-7		
SLP	62,058	702	59,607	694	-4*	300,866	6,268	256,274	5,349	-15 <sup>*</sup>	25,352	608	25,915	665	2		
Unknown	2,187	250	2,637	305		9,853	1,610	11,218	2,001		249	74	387	105			
Total	101,907	729	97,074	778	-5 <sup>*</sup>	490,608	7,833	417,639	6,971	-15 <sup>*</sup>	38,942	846	39,168	921	1		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Regions included the Upper Peninsula (UP), the northern Lower Peninsula north of Management Unit ZZ (NLP), and Management Unit ZZ in the southern Lower Peninsula (SLP).

Table 9. Comparison of estimated hunter success, hunter satisfaction, and hunt interference between 2006 and 2007 Michigan spring turkey hunting season, summarized by regions.

		Hunt	er succ	cess		Hunter satisfaction <sup>b</sup>						Noninterfered hunters <sup>c</sup>				
			2007 Differ-		2006		2007		Differ-	2006		2007		Differ-		
				95%	ence	95%		95%		ence	95%		95%		ence	
Region <sup>a</sup>	%	CL	%	CL	(%)	%	CL	%	CL	(%)	%	CL	%	CL	(%)	
UP	41	3	41	6	0	62	3	63	6	0	91	2	90	4	-2	
NLP	33	2	35	2	2	56	2	59	2	3	89	1	88	1	0	
SLP	41	1	43	1	3*	69	1	70	1	2*	88	1	87	1	0	
Total	38	1	40	1	<b>2</b> *	64	1	66	1	2*	88	1	88	1	0	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Regions included the Upper Peninsula (UP), the northern Lower Peninsula north of Management Unit ZZ (NLP), and Management Unit ZZ in the southern Lower Peninsula (SLP).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Number of hunters did not add up to statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one unit for the unlimited quota hunt. <sup>\*</sup>P<0.005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Hunters rating their hunting experience as excellent, very good, or good.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup>Proportion of hunters that indicated they experienced no or only minor interference from other hunters.

<sup>\*</sup>P<0.005.

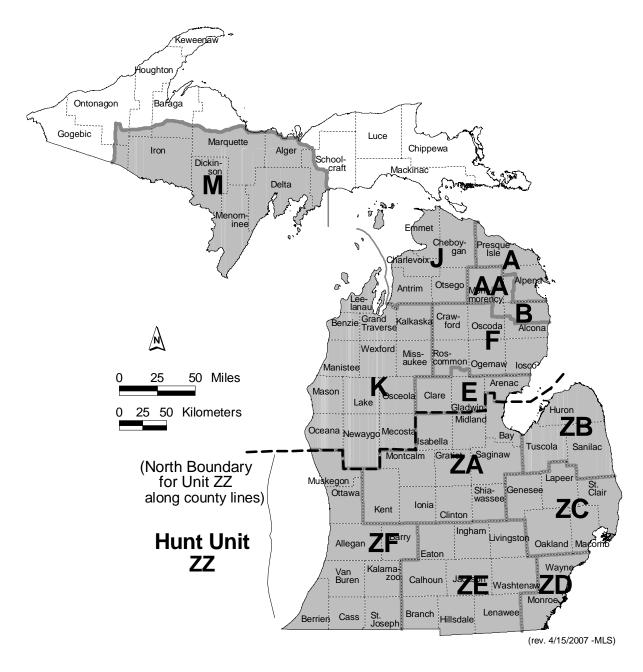


Figure 1. Management units in Michigan open to spring turkey hunting in 2007.

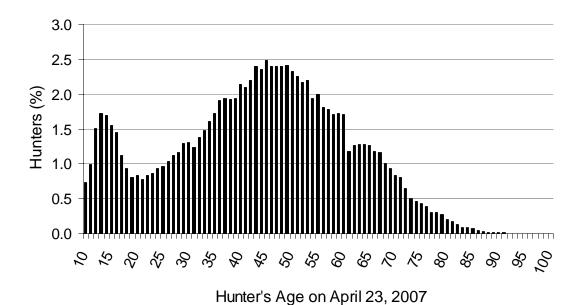


Figure 2. Age of people that purchased a turkey hunting license in Michigan for the 2007 spring hunting season ( $\bar{x}=43$  years). Licenses were purchased by 121,491 people.

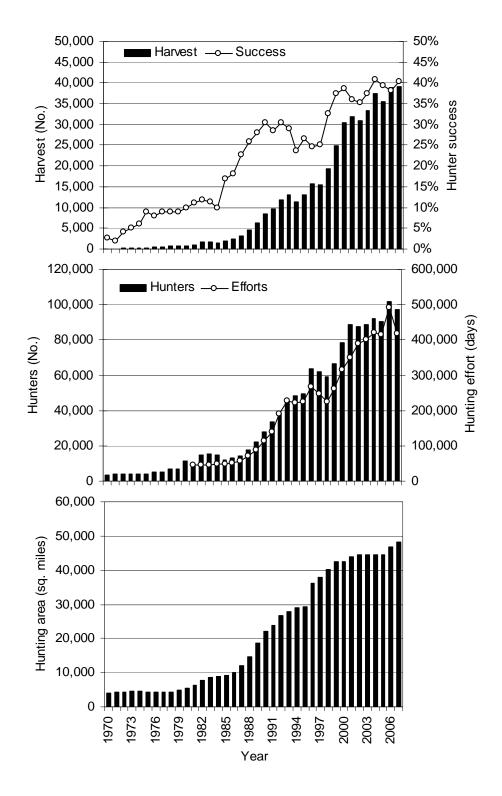


Figure 3. Estimated number of hunters, harvest, hunting efforts, hunter success, and area open to hunting during the Michigan spring turkey hunting season, 1970-2007. Estimates of hunting effort generally were not available before 1981.

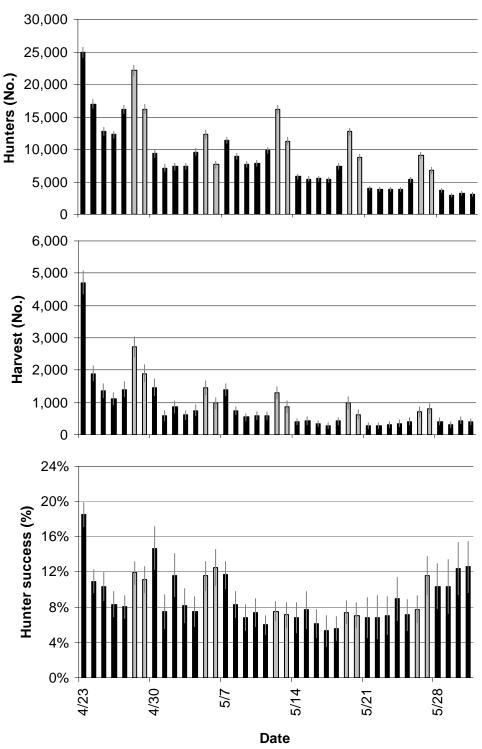


Figure 4. Estimated number of hunters, harvest, and hunter success by date during the 2007 Michigan spring turkey hunting season (includes all hunts). An additional  $3,134 \pm 286$  birds were taken on unknown dates. Gray-shaded bars indicate weekends. Vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval.

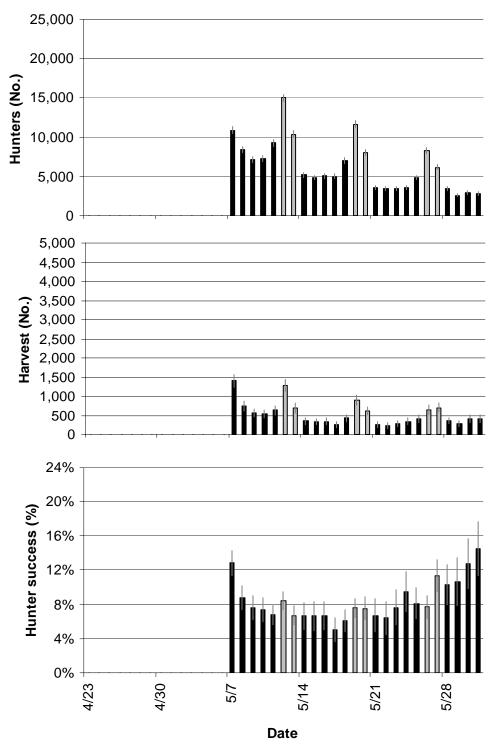


Figure 5. Estimated number of hunters, harvest, and hunter success by date during Hunt 234 of the 2007 Michigan spring turkey hunting season (May 1-31). An additional  $1,474 \pm 181$  birds were taken on unknown dates. Gray-shaded bars indicate weekends. Vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval.

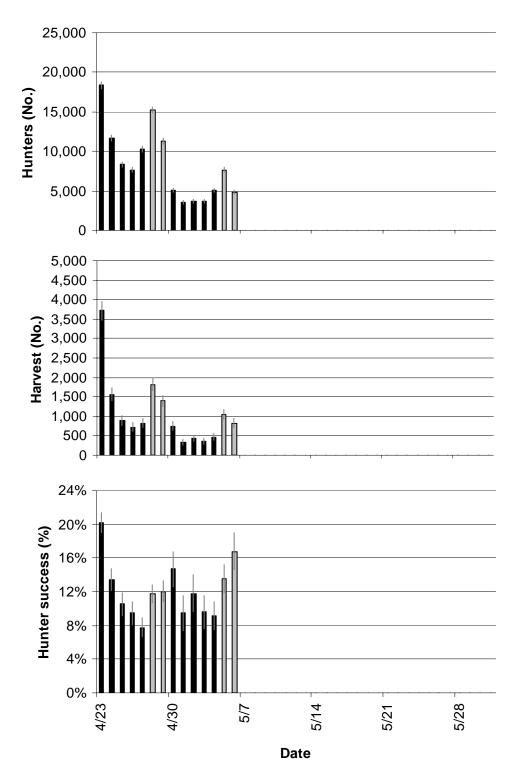


Figure 6. Estimated number of hunters, harvest, and hunter success by date during Hunt 301 of the 2007 Michigan spring turkey hunting season (April 17-30). An additional 1,353  $\pm$  153 birds were taken on unknown dates. Gray-shaded bars indicate weekends. Vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval.

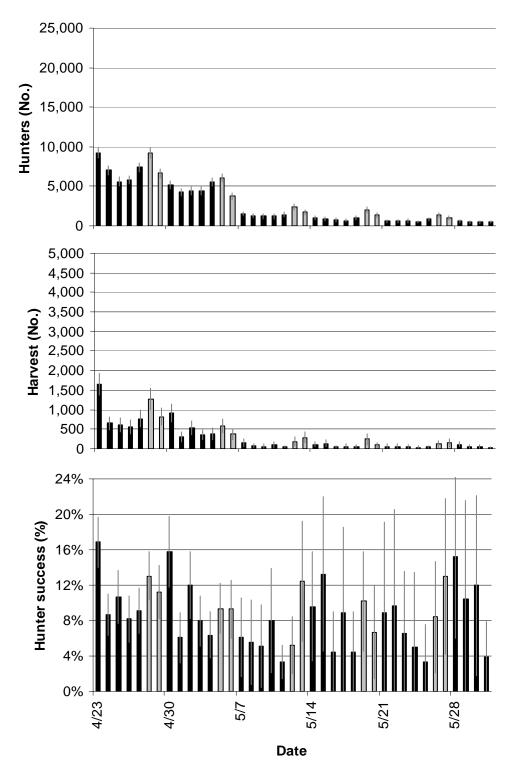


Figure 7. Estimated number of hunters, harvest, and hunter success by date during all hunts except hunts 234 and 301 of the 2007 Michigan spring turkey hunting season. An additional  $388 \pm 163$  birds were taken on unknown dates. Gray-shaded bars indicate weekends. Vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval.

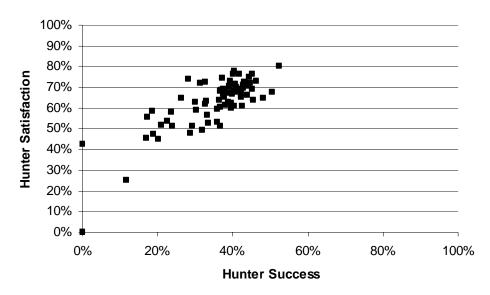


Figure 8. Relationship between hunter satisfaction (expressed as the percentage of hunters rating their hunting experience as excellent, very good, or good) and hunter success for each of 79 counties in Michigan during the 2007 spring turkey hunting season.

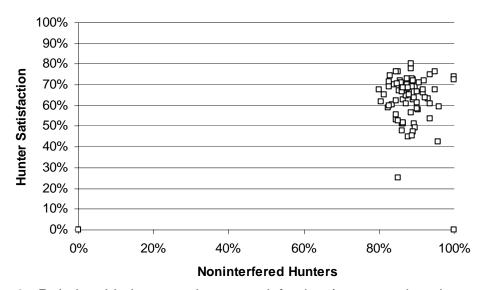


Figure 9. Relationship between hunter satisfaction (expressed as the percentage of hunters rating their hunting experience as excellent, very good, or good) and hunter interference for each of 79 counties in Michigan during the 2007 spring turkey hunting season. Noninterfered hunters were the proportion of hunters that indicated that they experienced no or only minor interference from other hunters.